

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Summary Monday, November 21, 2011 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Participants

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Roll Call/Introductions

Monica Rodia, Executive Secretary of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC), welcomed the members to the teleconference and took roll. She stated the December teleconference is canceled since the TSC is meeting in Tulsa next month. The TSC will hold its next teleconference on January 23, 2012.

October Teleconference Minutes

Monica reported that the October conference call minutes had been reviewed, finalized and distributed to the members and are now a part of the TSC's permanent record. She encouraged members who are unable to attend the monthly conference calls to read the minutes in order to stay informed about TSC activities.

Tribal/EPA Caucus Report Out

Ted Coopwood stated the EPA Caucus will meet prior to the Fall Business Meeting to discuss implementation of priorities from the program and regional office perspectives. He explained that a matrix has been developed to help EPA representatives understand how tribal priorities (climate change or TEK) could be implemented by leveraging ongoing activities in his office for example. Ted plans to share the matrix with EPA Caucus members next week during the EPA Caucus conference call so that everyone is prepared to discuss it during the face-to-face meeting in Tulsa. Ted added that the EPA Caucus must identify how the Agency can assist in TSP implementation (e.g., technical assistance, collaboration with other agencies) in Indian country.

Jeff Mears reported that the Tribal Caucus had not met since the last Tribal Caucus teleconference except in the context of the Agenda Development Team (ADT) meetings. He asked whether it would be beneficial for him to present about implementation for the climate change TSP during the Fall Business Meeting. Jeff will discuss climate change during the afternoon session focused on implementation of priorities on Day 1.

TSC Fall Business Meeting

Donna Jackson provided an update regarding the Fall Business Meeting logistics. All meeting participants will be housed in the new, smoke-free tower at the hotel. Participants should call the hotel at 1-800-760-6700 when they arrive at the Tulsa airport to arrange for free shuttle service to the hotel. TSC members can send an e-mail to Donna for their hotel confirmation number if they need it. In response to a question from Ted, Donna explained that the hotel was approximately 20 minutes from the Tulsa airport.

Monica explained that the ADT, which included Jeff, Ted, Mike Durglo, Tia Chullakorn, Katie Renwick, Glynis Hill, Allison Martin, Ken Bailey and herself, had been meeting for the past 4 weeks to develop the agenda for the face-to-face meeting. During the last 2 weeks, the ADT focused on comments from the Tribal Caucus about providing more Caucus time to discuss the TSPs. Tribal Caucus members also had requested an orientation to the TSC, so Day 1 of the meeting is devoted to the TSC's history, purpose, mission, accomplishments, goals and success stories in addressing tribal science needs in Indian country. Curtis Munoz, who served two terms as the TSC Tribal Co-Chair, will lead the orientation.

Monica and Ted highlighted the 3-day agenda for the face-to-face meeting. Ted thought that it would be beneficial to remove the 15-minute report-out/whole group discussion during the 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. TSC History session, allowing an additional 15 minutes for breakout discussions; Bear Carrillo and Jeff agreed with this change. The session entitled "Current Inter-Tribal Science Activities" during the afternoon of Day 1 should be renamed so that it emphasizes the focus on implementation and what it looks like in Indian Country. Jeff, Neil, and Orville will present case studies on what implementation of

priorities may look like on the ground level in tribal communities. Allison stressed those members who would like to attend the Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST) hands-on demonstration sessions need to register ahead of time to ensure that they have access to the T-FERST tool. She also reported that Curtis is investigating potential field trips with the Cherokee or Creek Nations for the morning of Day 2.

Jeff asked about interaction with the National Tribal Caucus (NTC) during the face-to-face meeting. Monica explained that the level of interaction with the NTC was not what she had planned or hoped for, but TSC is on the agenda for the NTC meeting on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Ted explained that there will be ample NTC/TSC interaction during the Day 1 luncheon.

Felicia Wright thought that there were some opportunities within the NTC agenda for TSC participation, including the “EPA Tribal Partnership Paradigm” and climate change discussions. The NTC is forming a climate change workgroup, and climate change is a TSC TSP. Monica explained that she had tried to work closely with AIEO to link the climate change discussions. Ted said that he, Jeff and Monica would need to determine the best approach to include TSC participation in the climate change discussion. Felicia noted that Agency tribal program managers were going to be a part of the NTC meeting, so there would be overlap between the two meetings. If there are implementation ideas that evolve from the Day 1 breakout sessions, it may be helpful to share them with the NTC during its climate change discussion. Ted said that any pertinent information could be prepared for Felicia to present on behalf of the TSC at the NTC meeting concerning implementation of the climate change priority.

James Leathers asked whether it would be possible to receive a copy of the climate change adaptation plan and/or Joel Schubauer-Berigan presentation prior to the meeting so that they could be reviewed and discussed in the breakout sessions that occur prior to the Day 3 presentation. Monica said that she had asked Joel about receiving the presentation prior to the meeting, but he will be on international travel prior to the face-to-face meeting, so this will not be possible. David explained that he was not planning an official presentation because the NTC is the lead on this topic. He added the climate change adaptation plan will not be finished until sometime in December. Joel will be discussing the process for developing the plan and obtaining tribal input. Bob Hall would like highlights from the workgroup as part of Joel’s presentation.

T-FERST

Allison explained that T-FERST and LifeLine™ were included in the tribal decision-making booth at the Applications for the Environment meeting. It was very beneficial to bring people together to discuss T-FERST. She reminded the TSC members that the deadline for the first round of comments regarding the T-FERST tool is November 23, 2011. It will be possible to provide additional comments during and following the face-to-face meeting as well. Comments provided by November 23 will be discussed during the face-to-face meeting.

Announcements

Monica explained that T-FERST is being highlighted during the U.S. EPA Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program Seminar on November 22, 2011, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. EST. TSC members interested in attending can join the seminar by calling 1-866-299-3188 with code 919-541-4909# or register at <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/shcrpseminars>.

Tia said that a tribal climate change discussion is occurring from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PST on December 5, 2011, if TSC members are interested in attending. She will send the information to Monica to forward to the TSC members.

Mike said that there is a webinar devoted to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting on November 22, 2011, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. MST. He will forward the information to Monica to forward to the TSC members.

Felicia said that there is another opportunity during the week of November 28 for tribes to be involved in Office of Water (OW) activities. She will send the information to Monica to forward to the TSC members. Monica added that she could assist any tribal representatives interested in joining the OW listserv. The tribal representatives expressed interest, so Monica will forward their e-mail addresses to Felicia to be added to the OW listserv. Tia asked if notice about the meetings could be provided more than 1 day in advance. Felicia said that she would try to provide more notice, but some meetings are planned at the last minute. The goal is to begin long-term planning, and tribal representatives are not expected to participate in every meeting.

Monica and Ted thanked the members for participating and adjourned the conference call at 3:06 p.m.

Action Items

- ✧ The “Whole group discussion: 15-minute report-out” item will be removed from the 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. TSC History session on Day 1 of the face-to-face meeting agenda.
- ✧ The session entitled “Current Inter-Tribal Science Activities” during the afternoon of Day 1 will be renamed so that it emphasizes the focus on implementation and what it looks like in Indian Country.
- ✧ Ted, Jeff and Monica will determine the best approach to include TSC participation in the NTC climate change discussion.
- ✧ Tia, Mike and Felicia will send the information about the various webinars/meetings that may be of interest to TSC members to Monica so that she can forward them to the TSC.
- ✧ Monica will provide the TSC members with an updated agenda for the Fall Business Meeting by November 22, 2011.

**NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL
NOVEMBER 21, 2011
2:00 PM - 3:00 P.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

Call-in Number: **866-299-3188**
Access Code: **2025648322#**

FINAL AGENDA

- 2:00 – 2:05 Roll Call
- 2:05 – 2:10 October minutes distributed for review and finalized
- 2:10 – 2:20 Tribal/EPA Caucus Report-Outs (Jeff Mears and Ted Coopwood)
- 2:20 – 2:40 Tribal Science Council Fall Business Meeting
 - Tulsa, Oklahoma, the week of December 5, 2011
 - Meeting logistics and hotel rooms (Donna Jackson, BLH Technologies, Inc.)
 - Agenda Development Team Workgroup
 - Report-out on TSC meeting agenda
 - “Oklahoma Barbeque” Celebratory Luncheon
- 2:40 – 2:55 Tribal- Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (T-FERST)
 - T-FERST demonstrations/training:
 - Tribal Environmental Council of Oklahoma Meeting (Curtis Munoz)
 - EPA Apps for the Environment (Allison Martin, OSP)
- 2:55 – 3:00 Announcement(s)
 - U.S. EPA Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program Seminar Series: Tribal-FERST on November 22, 2011, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ESTABLISH, (866) 299-3188, code 919-541-4909#; <https://epa.connectsolutions.com/shcrpseminars/>

Next conference call: *January 23, 2012, 2:00 – 3:00 pm EST*